

Childers Announces More Than \$129 Million in Additional Recovery Funds Now Available for Mississippi To Save Jobs, Improve Education

June 16, 2010

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Travis Childers (MS-01) today announced that an additional \$129,382,422 is now available for Mississippi under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's State Stabilization Fund. Mississippi received more than \$321 million in State Stabilization funding in April 2009. To date, Mississippi has received \$974,268,327 through the Recovery Act. The state recently reported that recovery dollars have been used to provide funding for more than 4,300 education jobs from January 1 to March 31, 2010, while also supporting programs that drive education reform.

"Without this significant funding, thousands of additional teaching jobs in Mississippi would have been lost, negatively impacting hard-working families, the economy, and our children," said Childers. "Providing our children with a quality education is the best way to prepare them for good-paying jobs, produce a highly-skilled workforce, and strengthen our local communities. Because of the Recovery Act's continued investment in Mississippi, we have been able mitigate the effects of budget shortfalls, save jobs, improve education, and bolster our economy during today's tough times."

Specifically, today's funding will help shore up FY2011 state education funding that is approximately \$80 million below the current level of funding for all of K-12 education, which faced deep cuts last school year at the expense of teachers and students.

In addition to the more than \$129 million announced today, the ARRA has provided

\$844,885,905 in funding through 11 different programs to Mississippi prior to today's announcement, Mississippi had received:

- \$349,918,244 in State Fiscal Stabilization funds through their successful completion of

part 1 of the application. The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund program is a new one-time appropriation of \$53.6 billion distributed directly to states to:

1. Help stabilize state and local government budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in education and other essential public services.
2. Help ensure that local educational agencies (LEAs) and public institutions of higher education (IHEs) have the resources to avert cuts and retain educational personnel and staff.
3. Help support the modernization, renovation, and repair of school and college facilities.
4. Help advance reforms, from early learning through post-secondary education, to benefit students and families.

- \$132,888,849 in Title I funds. The ARRA provides \$10 billion in additional Title I, Part A funds to state education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) to support schools that have high concentrations of students from families that live in poverty in order to help improve teaching and learning for students most at risk of failing to meet state academic achievement standards.

- \$127,219,091 in IDEA funds. The ARRA provides \$12.2 billion in additional funding for Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Part B of the IDEA provides funds to state educational agencies (SEAs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help them ensure that children with disabilities, including children aged three through five, have access to a free appropriate public education to meet each child's unique needs and prepare him or her for further education, employment, and independent living. Part C of the IDEA provides funds to each state lead agency designated by the Governor to implement statewide systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary interagency programs and make early intervention services available to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

- \$8,507,492 in Education Technology Grants. The ARRA provides \$650 million in additional funding for Education Technology Grants. The primary goal of the Education Technology Grants program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools. It is also designed to help ensure that every student is technologically literate by the end of eighth grade and to encourage the effective integration of technology with teacher training and curriculum development.

- \$7,214,520 in Vocational Rehabilitation Funds. The ARRA provides \$540 million in additional funding for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program. The VR State Grants program provides grants to states to help individuals with disabilities, especially those individuals with the most significant disabilities, prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment.

- \$1,170,616 in Independent Living Services Funds. The ARRA provides \$140 million in additional funding for the Independent Living (IL) programs. The IL programs support services to individuals with significant disabilities and older individuals who are blind to maximize their leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity, and to promote the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

- \$1,995,510 in School Improvement Grants. The ARRA provides \$3 billion in School Improvement Grants to support the transformational changes that are needed to turn around the nation's persistently lowest-achieving schools by using rigorous school intervention models.

- \$896,372 in McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funds. The ARRA provides \$70 million under the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program to assist States and local educational agencies (LEAs) in addressing the educational and related needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our society – homeless children and youth – during a time of economic crisis in the United States.

- \$205,425,914 in Pell Grants has been awarded to students attending schools in Mississippi. Pell Grants are awarded based on student applications, not by state. The ARRA provides \$17.1 billion in additional funds for students across the country in need of Pell Grants. The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain postbaccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Students may use their grants at any one of approximately 5,400 participating postsecondary institutions. The additional funding allowed the Department of Education to raise the maximum Pell award from \$4,731 to \$5,350.

- \$2,079,941 in Work Study funds have been awarded to students attending schools in Mississippi. The ARRA provides an additional \$200 million to the Work-Study program, providing colleges and universities with additional funding to provide jobs to students to help with their college and living expenses.

- \$7,569,716 in State Longitudinal Data Systems grants were just recently announced for Mississippi. This funding will support states with the development and implementation of data systems to enable them to examine student progress from childhood into career, including matching teachers to students, while protecting student privacy and confidentiality consistent with applicable privacy protection laws.

For more information on the First District's and Mississippi's share of Recovery Act funds, visit Congressman Childers' online Recovery Tracker at www.childers.house.gov.

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit www.childers.house.gov